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M. Annaei Lucani de Bello Civili Liber viii. Edited by J. P. POSTGATE. Cambridge: University Press, 1917. Pp. cxii+146. \$1.

This edition is a continuation of Postgate's edition of Book VII in the same series. In addition to Book VIII it contains lines 1-18, 167-214 of Book IX. There are 112 pages of introduction, 34 of text, and 112 of notes and index.

The historical Introduction deals exhaustively and critically with Pompey's last days. The first chapter deals with the sources and their relation to one another, a difficult question. A postscript makes this suggestion: "Much of the difficulty concerning the relation of Florus' narrative to Lucan's would be removed by the assumption, to which there is evident objection, that the *epitomator* of Livy made use of *Lucan* and that *Florus* used the *Epitome*." A desperate situation to call for so desperate a remedy!

A lively and detailed account of Pompey's wanderings and death is given. Lucan has too often been treated as a meticulous historian by sober scholars, and Postgate tends to take them too seriously, even when his own point of view is unobjectionable. May we not be allowed to assume without discussion that Lucan did not necessarily get from his source the description of the exact manner in which the fagots were obtained with which to burn Pompey's body? It ought to be unnecessary to take a paragraph to explain that Lucan invented Pompey's dying remarks. No newspaper reporter is likely to have been on the spot.

Of the three excursus, the first deals with the route and chronology of Pompey's flight. It is supplemented by a chronological table and a map. The second excursus deals with geographical matters, and the third with the proper name of the battle, Pharsalia or Pharsalus. Postgate decides in favor of the former.

A brief critical apparatus precedes the text. The notes are in general adequate and satisfactory. Students interested in the history of Pompey and his times and those interested in the elucidation of Lucan's eighth book will find Postgate's edition a useful one.

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